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THE COFFIN

A somewhat similar history attaches to the word "coffin." The Greek word *κόφινος* has two meanings, "basket" and "shroud, casket." Probably the existence of the word *σπίρις* or *σφύρις* released the word to use for shroud or coffin exclusively. It passed over to Latin as "*cophinus*" and on into English as "coffin." It is found in common use in Arabic as كَفَّنْ^s having been taken over from the Syriac, along with many other words, when the Moslems conquered Syria. In Syriac it is found with both meanings (basket, shroud) in the following forms: *ܡܕܩܝܢܐ*, *ܡܕܩܝܢܐ*, *ܡܕܩܝܢܐ*.

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